

From Patchwork to Network

Jennifer Li, NACCHO



Outline

- About NACCHO
- Partnership with ASTHO
- Our definition of network
- Overview of our collaborations



About NACCHO

- Serves nearly 3,000 LHDs
- Provides education, information, research, and technical assistance
- Facilitates partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies to promote and strengthen public health
- Assists LHDs through programs, trainings, and advocacy to accomplish their public health missions effectively



NACCHO's role in EPHT

- To promote and explain the relevance of Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) to local environmental and public health practitioners.
- To enhance collaboration between relevant partners and agencies to improve the efficacy of the EPHT program.
- To identify and communicate the needs of local health departments (LHDs) as producers and users of data.
- To ensure inclusion of local public health in the design and implementation of the Network.



Collaboration Between NACCHO and ASTHO

Common goal:

*Awareness, education, understanding,
and participation of diverse
constituents in environmental public
health tracking.*



Together, WE CAN...

- Bring diverse constituencies together
- Share model practices
- Form and provide new partnerships
- Provide information to non-funded states and localities



What network are
we looking to enhance?





The PEOPLE Network

- The PEOPLE
 - Collect data
 - Analyze data
 - Conduct education
 - Communicate risks
 - Set policy
 - Conduct prevention programs
 - PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH



Support the goal of tracking

Protect communities by providing information to federal, state, and local agencies. Agencies will use this information to **plan, apply, and evaluate public health actions** to prevent and control environmentally related diseases.



ASTHO and NACCHO work to
move from Patchwork to
Network...



Facilitated discussions

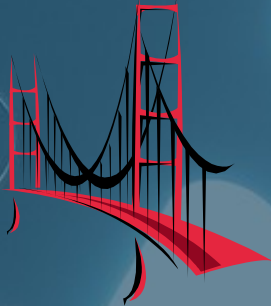
- **Who:** Local and state health officials, national partners, CDC
- **Where:** NY, MD, OR, WI, CA
- **When:** March 2005 – February 2006
- **Why:**
 - Open communication lines
 - Identify & communicate needs
 - Foster coordination
 - Discuss use of tracking data





Facilitated discussions

- Features and Capabilities
- Challenges
- Data sources
- Effective Strategies





Network features and capabilities

- Data Characteristics
 - GIS capability
 - Flexibility with geo-coded data
 - Data quality provisions
- Network Characteristics
 - Communication guidelines
 - Common language
 - Ease of use
- Expected Uses
 - ID resources for addressing EH issues
 - Communication building and planning tool
 - Improve interagency communication



Challenges

- Interpretation and analysis of data
 - Communication among agencies
 - Raw v. analyzed data
- Access and usability of databases
 - Ease of use
 - Data sharing
 - Technical assistance
- Broadening EH definition
- Setting priorities
- Limited resources



Data sources

- Housing information
- GIS: pesticides, agriculture, WIC
- Training
 - Access data sources
 - Understand data limitations
 - Use data collected for other purposes
- Data on built environment
- Tools and measures to identify promoters of health
 - Number of parks
 - Better nutrition
 - Physical activity
 - Crime
 - Education
- Local v. state interests in data sharing
- Preconditions of health in a community



Effective strategies

- Establish regular communication
 - Newsletters
 - State Associations for County and City Health Officials (SACCHOs)
 - State environmental and public health meetings
- Maintain and develop relationships
- Increase local capacity



"From Patchwork to Network"

(the meeting)

- Six State Teams (unfunded states)
 - Colorado
 - Indiana
 - Kansas
 - Michigan
 - South Carolina
 - Tennessee
- Workshop Goals
 - Increase awareness
 - Provide tools
 - Discuss tracking



“From Patchwork to Network”

- Team Exercise:
 - Priority Areas
 - Potential Partners
 - Resources
 - Action Plans





Lessons Learned

- Difficulties in developing a user-friendly network
- Translating data into action
- State-local relationships require extensive attention
- Differences in local, state, and national priorities
- Listen to and involve communities

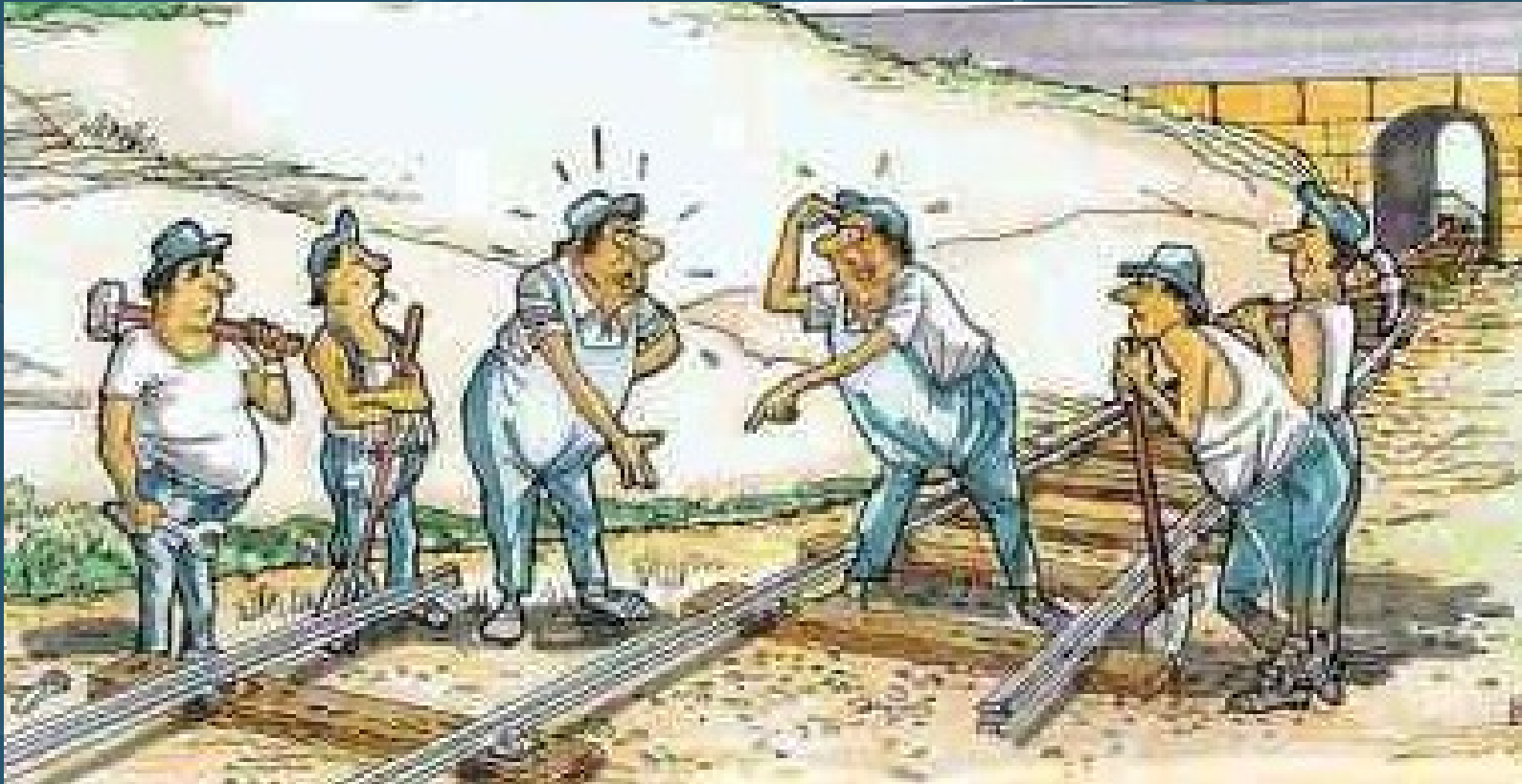


Next Steps

- EPHT state-local strategy meeting
- Continue to share model practices
- Encourage unfunded states to participate in EPHT workgroups
 - Program Marketing and Outreach
 - Content
 - Standards Network Development



Take away message...



The people network must work together to build the IT network



Thank You.

CDC, EH Tracking Branch
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
California Environmental Health Tracking Program
Maryland Department of Environment
National Environmental Health Association
New York State Department of Health
Oregon Environmental Public Health Tracking Program
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Wisconsin Division of Public Health



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